



Press Release

United States Representative  
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*Proudly Serving Mississippi's Second Congressional District*

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**CONGRESSMAN THOMPSON  
ANNOUNCES HEAD START GRANTS: OVER \$13M**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Today, United States Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) announced that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through its Office for Children and Families, has funded two Mississippi Head Start Programs. Friends of Children of Mississippi (Jackson-based) received a single grant for \$11,458,358, while Sunflower/Humphreys Counties Progress was awarded \$1,709,008. Both programs will use the funds to enhance the educational and developmental experiences of young Mississippians.

Congressman Thompson stated, "Education has topped the agenda of virtually every public official in Mississippi. The funding provided to these Head Start Programs will give the very youngest of Mississippians a chance to build a strong educational foundation. While some want to see the program done away with, I am convinced of the great need for it," concluded Thompson.

Head Start is a national program that provides comprehensive developmental services for America's low-income, preschool children, ages three to five, and social services for their families. Approximately 1,400 community-based nonprofit organizations and school systems develop unique and innovative programs to meet specific needs.

Head Start began in 1965 in the Office of Economic Opportunity and is now administered by the Office for Children and Families.

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